

DOC Opens Lines of Communication for Offenders

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

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J. David Donahue,
Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana (March 13, 2006) - Commissioner J. David Donahue announced today that the Indiana Department of Correction has implemented a direct access hotline at its juveniles facilities as an increased safety and security measure to report concerns.

The hotline is a safe, effective, and confidential way for juveniles to report inappropriate actions between staff and students, or student misconduct towards each other. The phone service is 24 hours, 7 days a week and all reported incidents are investigated by the Internal Investigations division at the Indiana Department of Correction. The service uses existing student telephones, and can be accessed using a special three-digit number, which offers direct access to Internal Affairs. This service provides students with an opportunity to communicate discretely with Department Investigators.

The purpose of the hotline is to receive calls from offenders who have concerns for their safety or who believe that incidents within the facility have disrupted the security of the facility and the offender population and which may have an immediate impact on the offenders health and safety. Physical, verbal or sexual abuse by other offenders or staff or major breaches of security are possible types of incidents that may be reported using the hotline.

"Creating a free hotline is my personal commitment to fostering a safe and secure environment," said J. David Donahue. "I am confident the expansion of the unhindered new line of communication at all juvenile facilities will give students a fair chance at expressing their concerns openly and without any consequences."

"All serious allegations will be investigated, and the evidence collected will be fairly evaluated. The hotline is a tool to help administrators identify and react to concerns in timely manner. Safety and security are non-negotiable in corrections," added Donahue.

The bottom-line for the Department is to insure a safer facility environment for both inmates and facility employees.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.